Substitute for petroleum products

680. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that natural gas is emerging as an important substitute for petroleum products;

(b) if so, various sectors|industries which can make use of natural gas;

(c) what are the details of various schemes/projects drawn to make available natural gas; and

(d) what progress has been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Natural gas can be used as a feedstock or fuel in most industries.

(c) and (d) Government have approvided several oil and gas field development projects including Neelam, Mukta, Panna, additional development of L-II and L-III reservoirs of Bombay High field, R-15A and Gandhar fields. These are under various stages of implementation.

Production of Oil

681. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the achievement made in the production of oil against the target set for 1991-92;

(b) how this compares with 1990-91 and 1989-90;

(c) what are the reasons for shortfall in the production of oil; and

(d) the details of various measures taken to boost oil production and narrow the gap between demand and supply of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The production of crude oil in the country during the year 1991-92 was 30.345 mlilion tonnes against the target of 31.8 million tonnes.

(b) The production of crude oil during the years 1990-91 and 1989-90 was 33 million tonnes and 34.09 million tonnes respectively.

(c) the reasons for shortfall include reservoir constraints, disturbed law and order situation in the Eastern Region and strike by ONGC employees in September, 1991.

(d) In order to augment indigenous production of crude oil, Government have approved seven oil field development projects. Government have also permitted private investment in this area which is expected to bring additional resources and technology to this sector.

Utilisation of Natural gas

682. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to utilise the natural gas obtained from Narimanam, in Tamil Nadu by the Electricity Boards; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Allocation of 0.057 MMSCMD of gas has been made to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.

Setting up of L.P.G. Plant

683. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to